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Scientific Note:

Notes on some rare *Planipennia* species in East Turkey (*Neuroptera, Myrmeleonidae, Ascalaphidae, Nemopteridae*)

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Within the field programs of the year 2008, the authors visited various places in the remote areas of Turkey on late May. South East Turkey is one of the less known region regarding the fauna of neuropterous insects. Among the reasons, the insecurity of the remote areas cannot be omitted. This case is still continuing.¹

Further faunal studies in the remote areas of the province will be carried out by the authors in this year.

In 2003, a very interesting species of the family *Myrmeleonidae* was found by the first author from the vicinity of Dağlıca (Hakkari Province, S.E.Turkey). After a long evaluation period, it was described as *Echthromyrmex sehitlerolmez* to the science.² The holotype, preserved in the collection of the Cesa, is illustrated here for the first time (**Fig.1**). This species inhabits at Dağlıca

¹ An incredible reality in East Turkey: For many years, the turkish scientists, carrying out their researches in the remote and dangerous areas of the East Turkey, are being protected not by the responsible soldiers, but the souls of the martyrs. It is therefore, the scientific name of *Echthromyrmex sehitlerolmez* (*Myrmeleonidae*) from Dağlıca near the Iraqi border, is dedicated by the authors to the martyrs. <http://www.members.tripod.com/entcesa/Cesa8.pdf> The following brief document shows some evidences on the current circumstances. From an official Turkish e-mail message to TSK on 27 April 2008 (without response so far): "İlgili Makamlara, Ekte sunulan belge, Genel Kurmay Başkanlığı, Jandarma Genel Komutanlığı ve ilgili Jandarma Bölge Komutanlıklarının görüşleri için hazırlanmış olup kursal kesimlerde yürütülmekte olan bilimsel araştırmalarımızı ve bazı sorunları yansıtmaktadır. Gereğini saygımlarla arz ve rica ederim. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak (Yüzüncü Yıl Üniversitesi Fen Edebiyat Fakültesi Dekanı, Van) - "...Bölge de GÜVENLİĞİ: Bölgedeki çalışmalarımız sırasında kişisel konaklama imkanlarımız çerçevesinde ilgili bölge karakolu kullanılmıştır. Bunun dışındaki özellikle gece operasyonlarımızda sadece ULU ÖNDERİMİZ ATATÜRK'ÜN VE KAHRAMAN ŞEHİTLERİMİZIN ruhları bizi korumaktır. Bu kırk yıl önce böyledi, yarın da böyle olacağı aksıktır. Bilimsel Çalışmalarımızın Diğer Sonuçları: Geçmiş yıllarda gerçekleştirdiğimiz kursal bölge çalışmaları sırasında çeşitli tespitler, bilim alemine tarafımızdan 2002'de yayınlanan bazı bilimsel isimlerle dile getirilmiştir. Bunlar arasında askeri anlam taşıyan *Polyommatus eumedon* ssp. *NAMUS* ve *Polyommatus crassipuncta* ssp. *MEHMETCIK*, Van'ın Çatak İlçesi kırsalında tarafımızdan bulunarak isimlendirilmiş iki kelebek alttırıdır. Bu yıl ise, 2003 yılında Dağlıca kırsalında gece topladığımız bir türe *E. SEHTLEROLMEZ* bilimsel adını vererek, bizim gibi korumasız bilim adamlarına, çok güzel ama ne yazık ki güvensiz dağlarımızda¹ sahip olan AZİZ ŞEHİTLERİMİZİN RUHLARINA atfederek onlara olan borcumuzu ödemış bulunuyoruz..." Studying in some remote areas in East Turkey is clearly a matter of life or death.

For other details visit the official Web Page of the Turkish General Staff (TGS) in Turkish:
http://www.tsk.mil.tr/HABERLER_ve_OLAYLAR/5_Terorle_Mucadele/terorle_mucadele_2008.htm

² Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal,2008, Description of a new species *Echthromyrmex sehitlerolmez* sp.n. (*Planipennia, Myrmeleonidae*) from South East Turkey. *Cent. ent. Stud., Misc. Pap.* 138: 4-5, 1 map.

together with *Palpares solidus* Gers., another rare nocturnal species of the family *Myrmeleonidae*, extending from South East Turkey, northern Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan (**Figs. 2,3**).



Fig. 1- *Echthromyrmex sehitlerolmez* (*Myrmeleonidae*) (Holotype) upperside of female Turkey Hakkari Pr. Yüksekova: Dağlıca YeşiltAŞ Gorge 1500m, 27 8 2003, A Koçak leg. PV1 M Kemal (coll. Cesa)

Dağlıca is a mountainous area of the Province Hakkari. At this place, 12 martyrs of Turkish Army during a nighttime attack by the terorists (PKK) on 21 October 2007 around YeşiltAŞ and Dağlıca, where the species collected by the author. Therefore, the new species is dedicated by the authors to these martyrs.

The genus *Echthromyrmex* in the family *Myrmeleonidae* was described by McLachlan in 1867. Its representatives are very little known in the world (**Map 1**).

The genus *Ptyngidricerus* in the family *Ascalaphidae* was described by Van der Weele in 1908. Recently several new taxa were described from various localities in West Asia (Abraham & Meszaros, 2002)³. In Turkey, the genus is represented by *P. albardanus* (McLachlan, 1891), described from Mardin. This nocturnal species is also known from Malatya, Bitlis (Kusgunkiran pass), Van (Çatak), and Hakkari (Zap valley) (Abraham & Meszaros, 2002; authors in litt.) (**Map 2**). In the new locality Kozluk (Batman Prov.), the diurnal specimen approaches to *albardanus* to some degree (**Fig.4**). Further researches will be carried out very soon in this area.

The genus *Lertha extensa* (Olivier, 1811) in the family *Nemopteridae* is distributed in South East Turkey. It is currently known in the following provinces: Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Diyarbakır, Şırnak, Siirt, Batman, Bitlis, and Van (**Fig.5**). Field studies on the determining of the distribution of this species is still continuing.

³ Abraham, L. & Z. Meszaros, 2002, Ascalaphid studies I. New genera and species of Ascalaphid from Palaearctic Region (Neuroptera, Ascalaphidae). Acta phytopath. Ent. Hung. 37 (4): 385-405, figs.



Fig. 2- *Palpares solidus* (Myrmeleontidae) (male) Turkey Hakkari Pr. Yüksekova Dağlıca Yeşiltaş Gorge 1500m 27.8.2003 A Koçak leg. PV1 M Kemal (Cesa)



Fig. 3- *Palpares solidus* (Myrmeleontidae) (female) Turkey Hakkari Pr. Yüksekova Dağlıca Yeşiltaş Gorge 1500m 27.8.2003 A Koçak leg. PV1 M Kemal (Cesa)

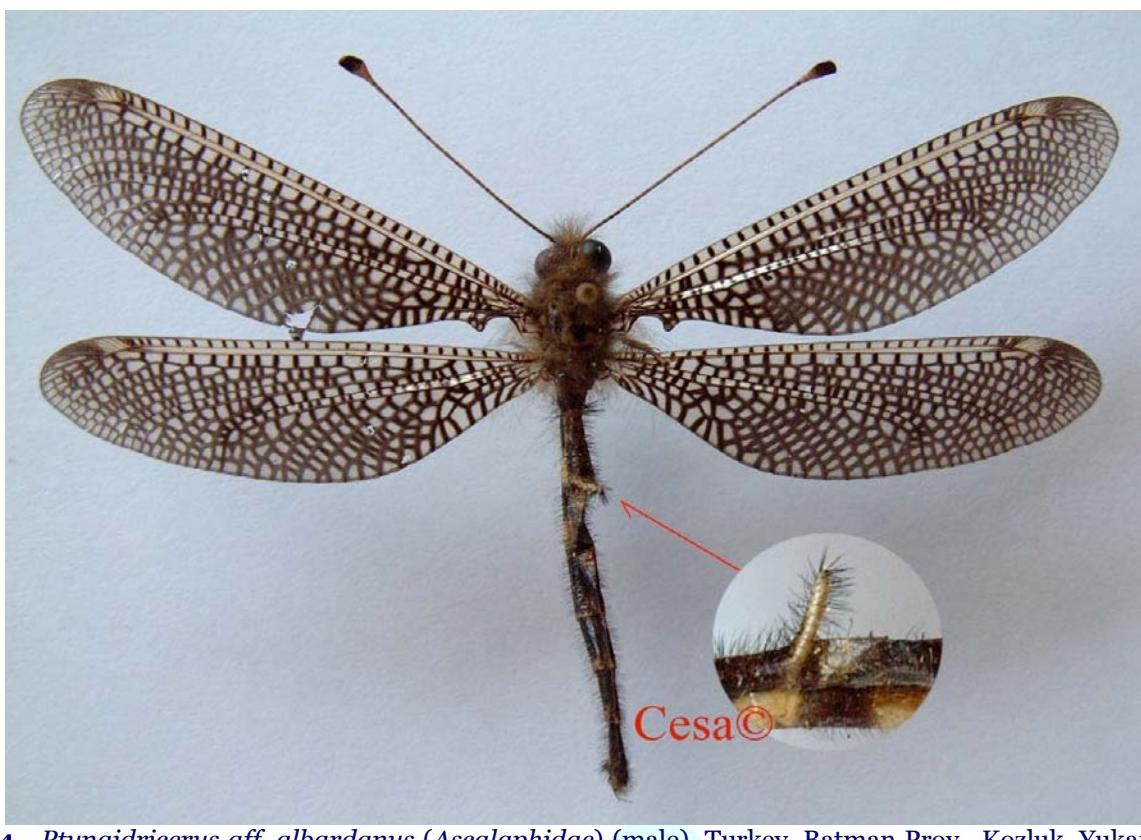


Fig. 4- *Ptyngidricerus aff. albardanus* (Ascalaphidae) (male). Turkey, Batman Prov., Kozluk, Yukarıalıçı 700m 28.5.2008 M.Kemal leg., photo A.Koçak (Cesa)

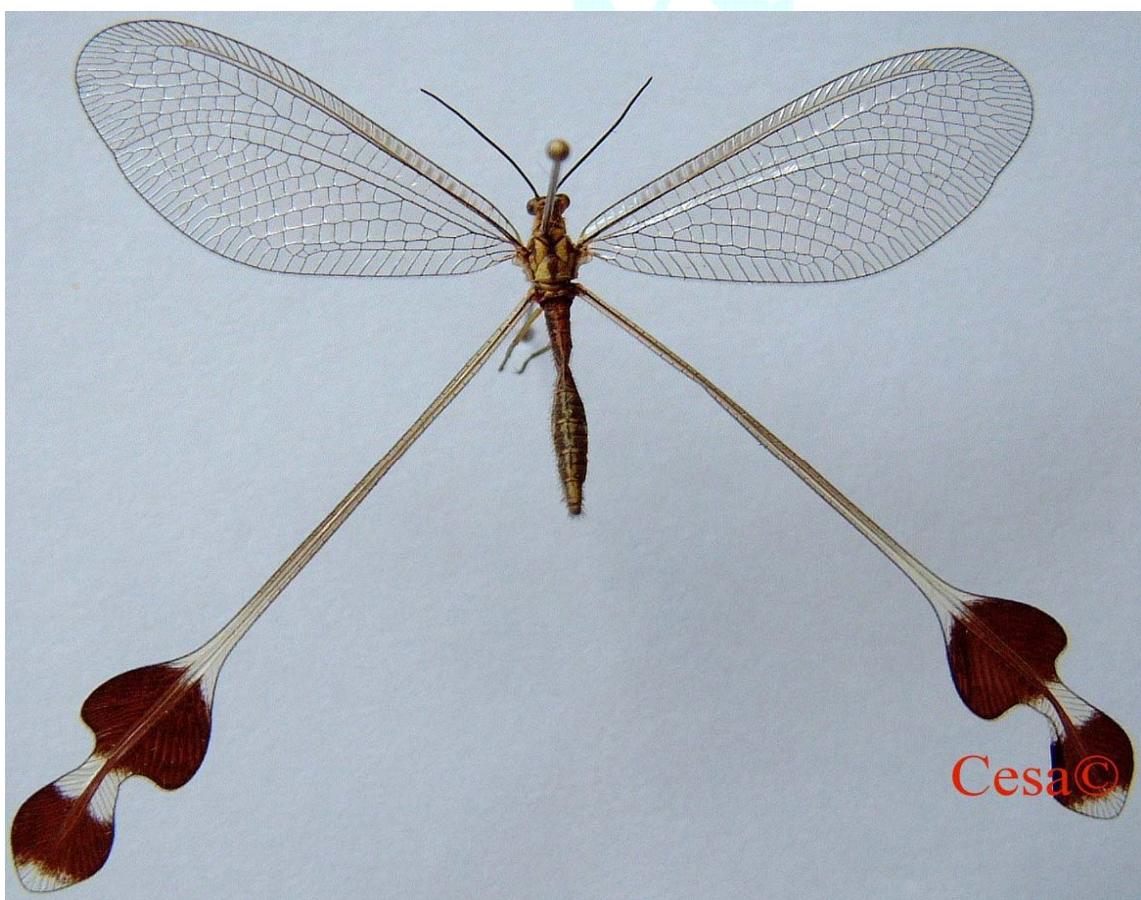
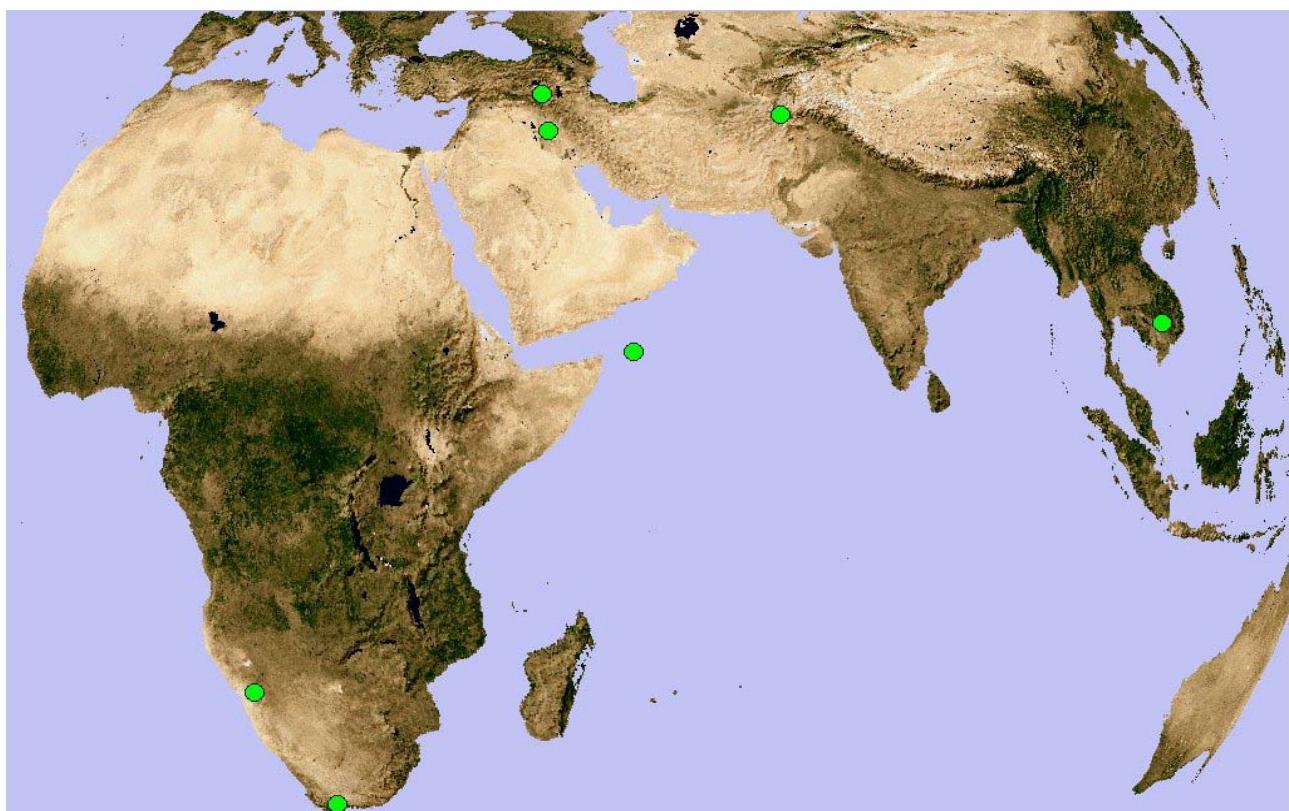


Fig. 5- *Lertha extensa* (Nemopteridae). Turkey, Mardin Prov., Ömerli, Anittepe 1080m 28.5.2008, M.Kemal & K.Akın leg. photo A.Koçak (Cesa).



Map 1- Distribution of the species of the genus *Echthromyrmex* in the World (*Myrmeleonidae*)
(from Koçak & Kemal, 2008, Cent. ent. Stud., Misc. Pap. 138: 5)



Map 2- Distribution of the species *Ptyngidricerus albardanus* in Turkey (*Ascalaphidae*)



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¹¹ <http://www.cesa-tr.org/Cesabooks.htm>